

A large purple speech bubble with rounded corners and a tail pointing towards the bottom left. The text is centered within the bubble.

**Lent 2020**  
**Prayer**  
**Devotions**

# Lent Prayer Devotions – 2020

## Week 1 (26 Feb – 1 March): Prayer & Fasting

**Wednesday, 26 February 2020 (Ash Wednesday)**

**Read:** 2 Samuel 12:16

**Reflect:** Fasting can be a tool to focus our prayers on or for a specific situation/person. But fasting does not guarantee we'll get our way. Nonetheless, it is far better to submit and surrender to God in earnest prayer, through fasting, then let Him decide to change things (or not) than it is to go our own way, doing our own thing.

**Relate:** *"A fast is not a hunger strike. Fasting submits to God's commands. A hunger strike makes God submit to our demands."*  
~Ed Cole~

**Respond:** Spend some time in the quiet. Thank God for the opportunity we have to fast during Lent. Ask God to show you one thing that you can give up for Lent. Once you've decided, make a point of praying during the times you would have done/eaten/bought whatever it is you're giving up for Lent. Keep a diary to reflect on how it goes each day.



**Thursday, 27 February 2020**

**Read:** Matthew 6:16-18

**Reflect:** Fasting is a spiritual discipline that helps us move closer to God. It is something we do intentionally in order to focus our attention on God, and on Him alone; like doing something special with someone you love and leaving your phone (or whatever distracts you most) at home. Fasting, though humbling, should not be humiliating. Or worse: self-seeking.

**Relate:** *"While a fast, by nature, is inconvenient, it should be an inconvenience to you – not to those around you."*  
~David Peach~

**Respond:** Ask God to show you something that distracts you from focusing on him. Deliberately find a way to remove that distraction (put your phone in a different room, sit somewhere you can't see the jobs that need to be done, etc). Spend some time in quiet, distraction-free, and focus all your attention on God.

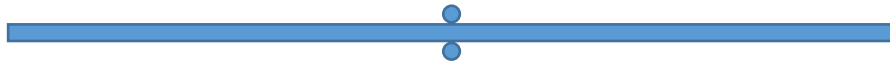
**Friday, 28 February 2020**

**Read:** Isaiah 58:2-7

**Reflect:** A time of fasting can be very significant and powerful. However, though fasting is and should be a private thing, it should lead us toward caring for those around us in tangible ways. Fasting is not a box ticking exercise to gain God's favour, but a spiritual nudge toward greater intimacy with God, resulting in love for our neighbours.

**Relate:** *"Fasting helps express, deepens, confirms the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves, to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God."*  
~Andrew Murray~

**Respond:** Ask God to show you opportunities where your love for Him can be made manifest to those around you. It may mean visiting an elderly person or someone in hospital, giving your time to mentor a young person, or help as a volunteer at Kids & Youth clubs.



**Saturday, 29 February 2020**

**Read:** Daniel 9:3

**Reflect:** Fasting is one of those spiritual disciplines we know are good for us, but often gets overlooked. It usually gets really difficult to carry on fasting after the novelty wears off. But that is exactly when we should dig deeper, press on past the discomfort and into greater intimacy with God. Keep it up.

**Relate:** *“The abstinence is not to be an end in itself but rather for the purpose of being separated to the Lord and to concentrate on godliness. This kind of fasting reduces the influence of our self-will and invites the Holy Spirit to do a more intense work in us.”*  
~William Thrasher~

**Respond:** When it gets tough to remain disciplined in your fast, try to intensify your prayers whenever the hunger/yearning comes up. Carry on keeping a diary of your fast and be as honest as you want about your frustrations, yearnings, hunger, etc. Your honesty will not surprise God or catch Him off guard.

## Sunday, 1 March 2020

**Read:** Acts 13:2-3

**Reflect:** God often speaks to us when we fast. Not always, but, in my experience, more often and more clearly. When we surrender our cravings, our needs, our whole lives to Him, we are more receptive to whatever comes from His hands.

**Relate:** *“Fasting in the biblical sense is choosing not to partake of food because your spiritual hunger is so deep, your determination in intercession so intense, or your spiritual warfare so demanding that you have temporarily set aside even fleshly needs to give yourself to prayer and meditation”*  
~Wesley L. Duwel~

**Respond:** Take a moment of quiet during your prayer time today. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Write down or draw any words/pictures that may pop into your mind. Ask God to explain what He is saying to you. It's also good to discuss these words/pictures with fellow believers you know and trust.

## Week 2 (2 March – 8 March): Prayer & Praise

**Monday, 2 March 2020**

**Read:** Jeremiah 20:13

**Reflect:** When I pray I intentionally focus on praising God first. This might happen by singing songs of praise, naming the characteristics of God, or just repeating the words, “You are holy.” I do this because it reminds me Who I’m praying to; Who I’m about to ask things of. Remembering who God is in praise lifts my focus off of myself and fills my prayer with faith.

**Relate:** *“Faith comes through God’s Word and through praise. Faith grows as you praise the Lord.”*  
~Wesley L. Duwel~

**Respond:** For the next week, try praising God at the start of every prayer you pray. This may be as simple as saying, “Lord, you are the most high King of heaven,” or “Holy Father, you are strong, just, kind and merciful.” Name and say as many of God’s characteristics as you can think of before continuing in prayer.



**Tuesday, 3 March 2020**

**Read:** Exodus 20:2-6

**Reflect:** Praising God doesn’t always come naturally to us. Most of the time we have to be intentional about it. What helps me to start my prayers with praise is to recognise and remember who God is. If God says He is the only God worthy of praise, I’m believing Him. By praising God I acknowledge His sovereignty before anything else.

**Relate:** *“Let us ever remember that God recognizes every expression of praise and of His people’s love. He knows so well what His love and grace are to us that He must expect us to praise Him.”*  
~G.V. Wigram~

**Respond:** Take a moment of quiet. Ask God to show you how you can praise Him more; whether by words, songs or actions. Commit to do this more regularly during Lent.

## Wednesday, 4 March 2020

**Read:** Psalm 99

**Reflect:** We sometimes make God's praise more about us than about Him. Often the songs we sing or the prayers of praise we pray focus on the "me" of the phrase "God loves me." Though that is true and good, we should focus on the "God" part when we aim to praise Him.

**Relate:** *"If we would talk more about the Lord and praise Him, we would have less time to talk about ourselves."*  
~M.R. de Haan~

**Respond:** Try to write a paragraph praising God without using the words I, me, we, or us. Let your words of praise be totally about God alone.



## Thursday, 5 March 2020

**Read:** Revelation 4:8-11

**Reflect:** To praise God means to recognise Him as sovereign. If we believe that God is sovereign it means that we will have to submit to Him. Recognising God's power and sovereignty through praise helps us bend the knee to the High King of Heaven. By praising God we do not bestow honour. We merely recognise it and respond accordingly.

**Relate:** *"Praise is the rehearsal of our eternal song. By grace we learn to sing, and in glory we continue to sing. What will some of you do when you get to heaven, if you go on grumbling all the way? Do not hope to get to heaven in that style. But now begin to bless the name of the Lord."*  
~Charles Spurgeon~

**Respond:** Try finishing every time of prayer with praising Christ as sovereign over all. See if and how doing this changes the way you pray.

## Friday, 6 March 2020

**Read:** Isaiah 29:13-14

**Reflect:** We often sing songs of praise and worship without realising what we're singing. Becoming too familiar with the lyrics and imagery of worship songs can be dangerous. Our minds may wander, we may get bored or just stop praising God altogether. Sometimes we have to be intentional about focussing on God and who He is; looking for and recognising Him in the world around us.

**Relate:** *"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."*  
~John Piper~

**Respond:** Make a point, while praising God in your prayers, to mean what you say. Name one thing you know to be true about God and reflect on that during your prayer time. Ask yourself why you believe this and how believing this will change the way you pray.



## Saturday, 7 March 2020

**Read:** Psalm 29

**Reflect:** God is not confined to a church building, or to an hour at a prayer meeting once a week. Because God created everything, we can recognise Him in everything. We remember His power when we hear the thunder rolling. We feel his gentleness in a soft breeze. We see His glory in a beautiful sunrise. We taste His goodness in a meal shared with friends. We smell the lovely fragrance of His mercy in an unexpected act of kindness.

**Relate:** *"Doth not all nature around me praise God? If I were silent, I should be an exception to the universe. Doth not the thunder praise Him as it rolls like drums in the march of the God of armies? Do not the mountains praise Him when the woods upon their summits wave in adoration? Doth not the lightning write His name in letters of fire? Hath not the whole earth a voice? And shall I, can I, silent be?"*  
~Charles Spurgeon~

**Respond:** Ask God to open your heart and eyes to the wonder of His majesty. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you recognise God's hand in all you experience, and to respond in praise.

**Sunday, 8 March 2020**

**Read:** 1 Chronicles 16:23-33

**Reflect:** Praising God may seem like a waste of time or like a counter-intuitive thing to do when we are faced with troubles. However, this is exactly what we need to do in those times. Most of the time it is more important to recognise who God is in praise than it is to ask Him for the things He already knows we need. Though God welcomes our requests, He demands our praise.

**Relate:** *“Whatever troubles are weighing you down are not chains. They are featherweight when compared to the glory yet to come. With a sweep of a prayer and the praise of a child's heart, God can strip away any cobweb.”*  
~Joni Eareckson Tada~

**Respond:** Try to focus on only praising God for one 15 minutes a week, without asking Him for anything in that time. Try and increase this to 15 minutes a day until Easter. Note how the focus of your prayers change.



### Week 3 (9 March – 15 March): Prayer & Thanksgiving

**Monday, 9 March 2020**

**Read:** Psalm 100

**Reflect:** Being thankful is more than just having good manners. Being thankful is recognising where the good things you have come from. Thankfulness begins by remembering Who made us and Who we belong to, then responding accordingly.

**Relate:** *“The Bible tells us that whenever we come before God, whatever our purpose or prayer request, we are always to come with a thankful heart.”*  
~David Jeremiah~

**Respond:** Take a moment to think of and write down all the things you are grateful for. Now thank God for every one of those things individually. Try and get into the habit of doing this every day.



**Tuesday, 10 March 2020**

**Read:** Colossians 3:17

**Reflect:** Thankfulness goes beyond merely saying the words, “Thank you.” If we are truly thankful for the forgiveness we have received and the new life that is ours in Christ, our lives should reflect our gratitude.

**Relate:** *“Jesus is moved to happiness every time He sees that you appreciate what He has done for you. Grip His pierced hand and say to Him, “I thank Thee, Saviour, because Thou has died for me.” Thank Him likewise for all the other blessings He has showered upon you from day to day. It brings joy to Jesus.”*  
~Ole Hallesby~

**Respond:** Tell a friend three things you are grateful for. Make a point of sharing your gratitude towards God with those around you.

**Wednesday, 11 March 2020**

**Read:** Psalm 107:8-9

**Reflect:** God's love for us is more than an idea or philosophical concept. We experience God's love, care and goodness in very tangible ways. Similarly our gratitude towards God should be more than a nice idea. Thankfulness must be expressed for it to be received.

**Relate:** *"Joy is the simplest form of gratitude."*  
~Karl Barth~

**Respond:** Take a moment of quiet. Think of ways you can show God gratitude. Ask God to show you the many blessings He has given you and how you can show your gratitude towards Him.



**Thursday, 12 March 2020**

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 9:11-15

**Reflect:** Showing God that we are thankful can take on many forms. When God blesses us, one of the ways in which we can show gratitude is by sharing the blessing with those around us. Showing gratitude in this way multiplies the gratitude towards God many times over.

**Relate:** *"The greatest saint in the world is not he who prays most or fasts most; it is not he who gives alms, or is most eminent for temperance, chastity or justice. It is he who is most thankful to God."*  
~William Law~

**Respond:** Take a moment of quiet. Think of the one thing you are most grateful towards God for. Now think of ways in which you can share that blessing with someone today.

## Friday, 13 March 2020

**Read:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**Reflect:** Giving thanks in all circumstances isn't always easy. It is more likely to feel grateful when things are going well than in times of trouble. However, there are always things around us to be thankful for. The key is to actively look for and recognise these things, then to give God thanks for them.

**Relate:** *"Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it."*  
~A.W. Tozer~

**Respond:** Take a moment every day to think of three things you are most grateful for. Now thank God for them by name.



## Saturday, 14 March 2020

**Read:** Philippians 4:6-7

**Reflect:** There is a reason why we should start our prayers with praise and thanksgiving before moving on to our list of requests. By praising Him we recognise Who we're praying to. By thanking Him we remember the things He has already done for us. Only then can we bring our requests before God with adequate faith.

**Relate:** *"God is in control and therefore in everything I can give thanks."*  
~Kay Arthur~

**Respond:** Commit to praise *and* thank God every time you pray. Note if there is a difference in how you pray after thanking God for things first.

**Sunday, 15 March 2020**

**Read:** 1 Chronicles 16:34

**Reflect:** God's love endures forever. He *is* good. And we have the great privilege of experiencing His love and goodness because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. That alone is reason enough for us to live lives showing gratitude towards God.

**Relate:** *"When it comes to life the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude."*  
~G.K. Chesterton~

**Respond:** Take a moment of quiet. Think about Christ's sacrifice that we are celebrating at Easter. Think about the victory, the new life, the forgiveness and freedom that comes along with knowing Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. Now thank God in as many ways as you can.

## Week 4 (16 March – 22 March): Confession

**Monday, 16 March 2020**

**Read:** 1 John 1:9

**Reflect:** We all want to live better lives. We want to live holy, pure lives. However, we need to be cleaned in order to do so. The cleaning process starts with us acknowledging and confessing that we are not spotless. Then, by God's grace and forgiveness, He will purify us.

**Relate:** *"The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works."*  
~Augustine~

**Respond:** Take a moment of quiet. Ask God to show you the thing(s) that you have done, said or thought that did not honour Him. Name them, specifically, and ask God's forgiveness. If this means you have to ask a person's forgiveness or confess wrongdoing to a friend, do so as well.



**Tuesday, 17 March 2020**

**Read:** Psalm 32:5

**Reflect:** Confessing our sin and shortcomings isn't always easy. Most of the time it can be incredibly difficult. However, remembering that God is not only just and righteous, but also gracious, kind and merciful can help us approach Him more readily. We have to confess our sins in order to receive His grace.

**Relate:** *"To confess your sins to God is not to tell [God] anything [God] doesn't already know. Until you confess them, however, they are the abyss between you. When you confess them, they become the bridge."*  
~Frederick Buechner~

**Respond:** On a piece of paper, write down some things you want to confess to God: mistakes made, areas of weakness and temptation, struggles and difficulties. As you write down each thing, give them consciously into God's hands. When you are finished, rip up the paper into tiny pieces as an act of praise and worship. Throw away the pieces and spend some time thanking God for wiping away our sins.

**Wednesday, 18 March 2020**

**Read:** Acts 3:19-20

**Reflect:** Confession is only the beginning of transforming sin into holiness. We also need to repent. Repenting means turning away from whatever it is that we confessed to and turning back towards God. Confession is the heart turning to God. Repentance is our actions following suit.

**Relate:** *"Believing the right things about Jesus isn't enough. You're not adopted as God's child until you confess and turn away from your wrongdoing and receive the freely offered gift of forgiveness and eternal life that Jesus purchased with his death on the cross. Until*

you do that, you'll always be on the outside looking in."

~Lee Strobel~

**Respond:** Go on a prayer walk to some location and back again, and use this as a visual reminder of repentance. On the way, speak to God and bring him those areas of your life that you want to turn away from, and that you would like him to change. When you get to the midpoint of your walk, consciously turn around and start walking back in the opposite direction. On the way back, commit yourself to God and walking in his ways, and in his strength.



### Thursday, 19 March 2020

**Read:** Daniel 9:4-6

**Reflect:** Confessing our sin means being really honest with ourselves before God. Sometimes we can try to hide or ignore our iniquities in an effort to sort it out ourselves, but that's not helpful. It might seem harsh, but being honest about our shortcomings is definitely worth it in the long run.

**Relate:** *"The confessional is not a torture chamber, but the place in which God's mercy encourages us to do better."*  
~Pope Francis~

**Respond:** We are not alone in our walk with God. It might be good to have someone you know and trust to talk through any of your struggles with sin; someone to pray with, to stay accountable to, to support and encourage you, and to be honest with.

### Friday, 20 March 2020

**Read:** James 4:8-10

**Reflect:** It might seem that confession is a way in which God can keep us in our place. That is not true. Confession, though it can make us feel ashamed, guilty or even worthless, is more like a first step towards God after we've turned away from Him. The promise is that, when we do turn to Him, He will welcome us back and lift us up.

**Relate:** *"If God did not forgive the Christian who confesses and turns away from sin, God would become unrighteous by holding in contempt Christ's atoning work, whose purpose was to uphold God's glory."*  
~Daniel Fuller~

**Respond:** Thank God for the wonder of the Cross. Thank Him for inviting you back into communion with Him. Thank Him that nothing can get in the way of His love. Ask the Holy Spirit to make you a minister of His peace and forgiveness in this world.



### Saturday, 21 March 2020

**Read:** Romans 3:22-24

**Reflect:** It is easy to think that, because we know Jesus, we are better than others. Growing up in a Christian home doesn't make us need God's grace any less than those whose journey to faith took deep and winding turns. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Therefore, all must turn to God to receive grace and redemption through Christ.

**Relate:** *"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ."*  
~Dietrich Bonhoeffer~

**Respond:** Spend some time today confessing your need of God to him. Recognise before the Lord the areas where you are weak, and rejoice that in those areas he is strong. Then some time to reflect on the last three years of your life. Try and remember where you were spiritually and where you are now. Notice the things that have changed and thank God for his ongoing work in your life.

### **Sunday, 22 March 2020**

**Read:** Psalm 139:23-24

**Reflect:** We can sometimes fall into the trap of thinking that we don't need Jesus after we have turned to Him once. We need to turn to Him daily. Confession is one of the ways in which we can deliberately turn back to Him and surrender to Him again every day. Submitting to His guiding hand every day is the best thing we can do.

**Relate:** *"Confession and repentance might be described as the negative side of submission; this involves getting rid of everything which hinders God's control over our lives. Yielding to God might be described as the positive side... placing ourselves totally into the hands of God."*  
~Billy Graham~

**Respond:** Take some time every day to pray through the verses of today's reading (Psalm 139:23-24). Then be quiet and listen. If something pops up, write it down and discuss it with a friend you know and trust. Bring it before God and ask for His forgiveness and guidance.

## Week 5 (23 March – 29 March): Faith

**Monday, 23 March 2020**

**Read:** Hebrews 11:6

**Reflect:** There is no power in saying prayers. There is, however, great power in praying. The difference is that saying prayers are like speaking to no one, while praying is speaking to God. To speak to God we have to firstly believe that He exists and that He is able to do far more than we can ask or imagine.

**Relate:** *“Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading.”*  
~Oswald Chambers~

**Respond:** Take a moment of quiet. Ask yourself if you believe all the things the Bible says about Jesus. Now ask yourself if there is anything that is impossible with God. How does this change the way you are about to pray?



**Tuesday, 24 March 2020**

**Read:** James 5:16-18

**Reflect:** Our prayers make a difference. It changes things. It changes the world we live in. Not because we are praying, but because of Whom we're praying to. Nevertheless, if we do not pray with faith, nothing will change.

**Relate:** *“Beloved, I say, let your fears go, lest they make you fainthearted. Stop inspiring fear in those around you and now take your stand in faith. God has been good and He will continue to manifest His goodness. Let us approach these days expecting to see the goodness of the Lord manifest. Let us be strong and of good courage, for the Lord will fight for us if we stand in faith.”*  
~Francis Frangipane~

**Respond:** Think of one or more issues/people you would like to pray for. These may include political issues, global climate issues, conflicts around the world, poverty, etc. It might be a neighbour who doesn't know Jesus yet. Commit to pray about these things until something changes, knowing that your prayers matter.



**Wednesday, 25 March 2020**

**Read:** Matthew 21:21-22

**Reflect:** Faith and prayer go hand-in-hand. One cannot pray without faith and expect things to change. However, Jesus is not giving us a recipe to get what we want in these verses. Praying with faith does not guarantee that we'll get what we want, but rather what God wants.

**Relate:** *"The issue of faith is not so much whether we believe in God, but whether we believe the God we believe in."*  
~R.C. Sproul~

**Respond:** Take a moment of quiet. Think of the things you would like to see happen/change in this world. Do you believe that God can change things? Now pray for these things ending with the words, "Yet Thy will, not mine, be done."



**Thursday, 26 March 2020**

**Read:** James 1:5-8

**Reflect:** It seems that God is more willing to give wisdom than He is to give material wealth. If this is true, and we believe that God wants what is best for us, we have to believe that having wisdom is better than having material wealth. Wisdom is freely given when asked for. That's a promise.

**Relate:** *"Seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand."*  
~Augustine~

**Respond:** Ask God for wisdom every day until Easter. Does this change anything in your life?

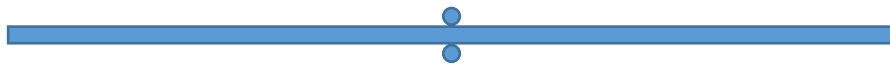
## Friday, 27 March 2020

**Read:** Matthew 9:20-22

**Reflect:** Believing or having faith in God doesn't mean much if we do not act upon that faith; if our faith is not turned into action. The woman in today's reading would not have been healed if she didn't reach out and touch Christ's cloak out of faith.

**Relate:** *"Faith is believing something and then acting as if it were so."*  
~Trevor Hudson~

**Respond:** Take a moment of quiet to think of three specific areas or situations in your life in which you can take steps of faith. Ask God to help you discern this and write down what your steps of faith will look like.



## Saturday, 28 March 2020

**Read:** Mark 11:22-24

**Reflect:** We can't move mountains. We don't have the power. But Jesus says that, if we put our faith in Him – our complete and full trust – what seems absurdly impossible to us might just happen. It starts with praying to the Almighty God.

**Relate:** *"Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible."*  
~Corrie Ten Boom~

**Respond:** Ask God to show you the impossible mountains (situations or circumstances) that needs moving in your life, or in the lives of those around you. Commit to pray for these things to be shifted. Look for the changes/shifts that happen and continue to pray.

**Sunday, 29 March 2020**

**Read:** Mark 6:4-6

**Reflect:** Amazing things seem to happen around Jesus when people have faith in Him. Where He was well-known and “ordinary”, people’s faith in Him were small. And little happened. The more we recognise who Jesus is, the more faith we’ll have, and the more things will change for His glory.

**Relate:** *“True faith rests upon the character of God and asks no further proof than the moral perfections of the One who cannot lie.”*  
~A.W. Tozer~

**Respond:** Ask God to help you raise your faith. Read what happened in Mark 9:14-29 and use the words from verse 24, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

## Week 6 (30 March – 5 April): Intercession

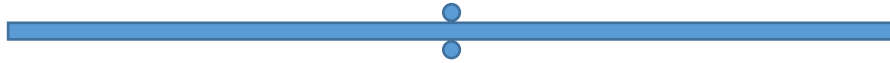
**Monday, 30 March 2020**

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 1:10-11

**Reflect:** Sometimes our prayers for others can be the difference between life and death. Praying for those we care about is an essential part of Christian community and growth.

**Relate:** *“If we truly love people, we will desire for them far more than it is within our power to give them, and this will lead us to prayer: Intercession is a way of loving others.”*  
~Richard J. Foster~

**Respond:** Commit to daily pray for the persecuted church. Resources to help you in this can be found online from Open Doors. Or join our Pray For The Nations prayer meetings on Friday afternoons at 15:30.



**Tuesday, 31 March 2020**

**Read:** Philippians 1:19

**Reflect:** Not all of us can go to foreign lands to support missionaries. All of us, however, can and should support them by bringing them before the Almighty in prayer. Bringing them and their needs before Christ is an integral part of sharing the Good News of Christ around the world.

**Relate:** *“The Church has not yet touched the fringe of the possibilities of intercessory prayer. Her largest victories will be witnessed when individual Christians everywhere come to recognize their priesthood unto God and day by day give themselves unto prayer.”*  
~John R. Mott~

**Respond:** Commit to speak to people or sign up for a missionary (like Sarah Casson) newsletter. Find out how you can support them in prayer and commit to pray for their needs and support.

## Wednesday, 1 April 2020

**Read:** Isaiah 62:6-7

**Reflect:** God often places a stirring in our hearts for a certain cause, situation or person. I believe these are prompts to pray God's kingdom into being. Let us remain faithful "watchmen on the walls" by praying for others as God leads us until He comes again, or we are relieved of our duty.

**Relate:** *"If added power attends the united prayer of two or three, what mighty triumphs there will be when hundreds of thousands of consistent members of the Church are with one accord day by day making intercession for the extension of Christ's Kingdom.*  
~John R. Mott~

**Respond:** Take a moment to think of a time of day during which you can pray for God's kingdom to come tangibly into this world. It doesn't have to be long, but commit to pray for the next two weeks at the same time every day for God's kingdom to be made manifest here and now.



## Thursday, 2 April 2020

**Read:** Ephesians 6:18-20

**Reflect:** Being part of the body of Christ is not a one-way system, i.e. it's not only about supporting others, but also being supported by others. Pride and/or fear often gets in the way of this happening effectively. If the apostle Paul was able to ask for prayer, so can we.

**Relate:** *"No man can do me a truer kindness in this world than to pray for me."*  
~Charles Spurgeon~

**Respond:** Think of someone you trust whom you can ask to pray with/for you. Maybe you can take a step of faith and come forward for prayer after a Sunday or Wednesday Service. Commit not to carry your burdens alone, whatever they are.

## Friday, 3 April 2020

**Read:** 1 Timothy 2:1-4

**Reflect:** We're encouraged to pray for our leaders, regardless of our political affiliations. Those we disagree with are not less deserving of prayer than those we care for. Praying for our leaders is for the benefit of all; us included.

**Relate:** *"Prayer for others is very beneficial to the man himself who prays; it purifies the heart, strengthens faith and hope in God, and arouses love for God and our neighbour.*  
~John of Kronstadt~

**Respond:** Commit to pray for our government. Pray for peace among enemies and for unity in working for the common good.



## Saturday, 4 April 2020

**Read:** Romans 10:1

**Reflect:** Intercessory prayer should have a face. What I mean by this is that when we pray for people to meet Jesus, we should pray specifically, rather than in general. If we truly believe that there is nothing better than knowing Jesus, we will pray for others to experience this too.

**Relate:** *"If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. If they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees. Let no one go there unwarned and unprayed for.*  
~Charles Spurgeon~

**Respond:** Think of five people you know that do not yet know Christ as Saviour. Commit to pray for them until they meet Jesus. Set regular reminders to help you remember to pray for these people by name.

**Sunday, 5 April 2020**

**Read:** Matthew 5:43-46

**Reflect:** All of us are called to love like Jesus. One of the ways we do this is by not discriminating between friend or foe when it comes to intercession. Jesus, on the cross, interceded for those crucifying Him. We too should hold those we disagree with, or who disagrees with us, in our prayers.

**Relate:** *“When the Bible tells us to pray for the very people who have hurt us, it’s not to inflict more pain on us. Prayer is not about our hurt, it’s about the needs of other people.”*  
~Woodrow Kroll~

**Respond:** Take a moment of quiet. Ask God to show you any people you may be holding a grudge against. Ask God for forgiveness and commit to pray for that person or those people on a regular basis.

## Week 7 (6 April – 12 April): Holy Week

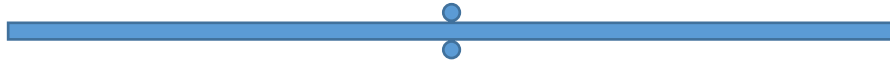
**Monday, 6 April 2020**

**Read:** Psalm 51:15-17 & Matthew 26:6-13

**Reflect:** God accepts us as we are. It's not about what we bring in prayer, but that we bring what we have. Approach God in prayer, because you will most certainly not be turned away.

**Relate:** *"Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The way to trouble God is not to come at all."*  
~D.L. Moody~

**Respond:** Nothing is too small or trivial that it should not be prayed about. Commit to pray about as many times during your day as you remember, for as many things as you can think of.



**Tuesday, 7 April 2020**

**Read:** Matthew 26:39

**Reflect:** Sometimes God does not answer our prayers as we think or hope He would. Even Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane wasn't answered. Yet He remained faithful, trusting God and surrendering His life into God's hands for His glory. Don't stop praying when God answers your prayers in an unexpected way.

**Relate:** *"It is not enough to begin to pray, nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray; but we must pray patiently, believing, continue in prayer until we obtain an answer."*  
~George Muller~

**Respond:** Moses prayed and interceded for forty days and nights, earnestly seeking God's face. What will you commit to pray for every day over the next 40 days, or until you have an answer?



## Wednesday, 8 April 2020

**Read:** Matthew 26:40-41

**Reflect:** Praying together is a powerful thing. Had they fully known the power of praying together, regardless of fatigue or boredom, they may have been awake to support Christ in His distress.

**Relate:** *“The great fault of the children of God is, they do not continue in prayer; they do not go on praying; they do not persevere. If they desire anything for God’s glory, they should pray until they get it”*  
~George Muller~

**Respond:** Pray with some friends. Commit to meet up regularly and pray together for each other.



## Thursday, 9 April 2020 (Maundy Thursday)

**Read:** Psalm 88:1-2 & Matthew 26:17-26

**Reflect:** At the Last Supper Jesus broke bread and gave thanks. His regular pattern of prayer and thanksgiving were not influenced by the company He kept or the looming betrayal by one of His close friends. There will always be something to thank God for, and the opportunity to pray wherever we are.

**Relate:** *“Praying without ceasing means at least three things. First it means that there is a spirit of dependence that should permeate all we do... So even when we are not speaking consciously to God, there is a deep, abiding dependence on Him that is woven in to the heart of faith. Second... [it] means praying repeatedly and often. Third, [it] means not giving up on prayer. Don’t ever come to a point in your life where you cease to pray at all.*  
~John Piper~

**Respond:** Think of times when God has answered your prayers. Remember how He answered and that He loves you. Keep these things in mind when you get discouraged in praying persistently without an answer from God.

## Friday, 10 April 2020 (Good Friday)

**Read:** Luke 18:1-8 & John 17

**Reflect:** Jesus tells His disciples (and us) to always pray and never give up. Even in the midst of Good Friday, Jesus still takes the time to pray for His disciples and for us. He never stopped praying. Neither should we.

**Relate:** *"We are sometimes tempted to think that we get no good by our prayers, and that we may as well give them up altogether. Let us resist the temptation. It comes from the devil. Let us believe, and pray on. Against our besetting sins, against the spirit of the world, against the wiles of the devil, let us pray on, and not faint. For strength to do duty, for grace to bear our trials, for comfort in every trouble, let us continue in prayer. Let us be sure that no time is so well-spent in every day, as that which we spend upon our knees. Jesus hears us, and in His own good time will give an answer... He may sometimes keep us long waiting...but He will never send us empty away.*  
~J.C. Ryle~

**Respond:** Ask God to remind you of the things you stopped praying for/about. Ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle the passion for those things and to pray for those things until He answers.



## Saturday, 11 April 2020 (Easter Vigil)

**Read:** Psalm 40:1

**Reflect:** Easter Saturday is interesting because it is caught between the great sorrow of Good Friday and the wonderful joy of Easter Sunday. The disciples waited patiently in the upper room. The psalmist (David) waited patiently on the Lord. So we must patiently wait and expect God's power to be made manifest in what we pray for.

**Relate:** *"If any are inclined to despond, because they do not have such patience, let them be of good courage. It is in the course of our feeble and very imperfect waiting that God Himself, by His hidden power, strengthens us and works out in us the patience of the great saints, the patience of Christ Himself."*  
~Andrew Murray~

**Respond:** Take some time after you've prayed to just wait on the Lord. He may show you words or pictures. Write these down. If not, just relax in the presence of the Almighty and enjoy His quiet company.

## Sunday, 12 April 2020 (Easter Sunday)

**Read:** Psalm 116:1-2

**Reflect:** The proverb goes: "The proof of the pudding is in the eating." In other words, something has to be experienced or utilised to see how good it really is. On Easter Sunday we celebrate the victory of Christ's resurrection. When we were in the darkest place, God made a way on Good Friday. May we echo the psalmist by remembering that God heard our cry for mercy. And may this encourage us to carry on crying out to Him every day.

**Relate:** *"Never forget what Jesus did for you. Never take lightly what it cost Him. And never assume that if it cost Him His very life, that it won't also cost you yours."*  
~Rich Mullins~

**Respond:** Take a moment to reflect on the last 7 weeks. What did you find helpful during this Lent? Were there anything that would lead you to change the way you pray in the future? Now would be a good time to start a prayer journal to document the things you pray about and how God answers your prayers.